

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 234

By Love

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Jesse Eugene Russell, Sr., for his innovation in digital cellular technology.

WHEREAS, it is most fitting that the members of this General Assembly should honor and commend those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have become leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Jesse Eugene Russell, Sr., an inventor, electrical engineer, and business executive lauded for his innovation in digital cellular technology; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell was born on April 26, 1948, to Mary Louise Russell and Charles Albert Russell and raised with his ten siblings in Nashville; in 1972, he completed a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering at Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, a top honor student, Jesse Russell began his work with AT&T Bell Laboratories after graduating, becoming the first African-American employee hired directly from a Historically Black College or University (HBCU); in the following year, he earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University; and

WHEREAS, after completing his education, Mr. Russell continued his work at Bell Laboratories as a pioneer in the field of cellular and wireless communication; in 1988, he led the first team from Bell Laboratories to introduce digital cellular technology in the United States, and he continued to serve the company in a host of positions, including director of the AT&T Cellular Telecommunication Laboratory, chief technical officer for the Network Wireless Systems Business Unit, vice president of Advanced Communications for AT&T, in which position he served from 1996 to 2000, and chief wireless architect for the AT&T Company; and

WHEREAS, after thirty years of meritorious service in the cellular and wireless communications industry, Jesse Russell now serves as Chairman and CEO of incNETWORKS, Inc., a broadband wireless communications company he founded in 2000; and

WHEREAS, a leader in communication technology, Mr. Russell holds more than 100 patents; his patents include the "Base Station for Mobile Radio Telecommunications Systems," (1992); the "Mobile Data Telephone," (1993); and the "Wireless Communication Base Station," (1998); and

WHEREAS, Jesse Russell has earned numerous awards and accolades, including the Outstanding Young Electrical and Computer Engineer Award from Eta Kappa Nu and the Scientist of the Year Award in 1980, the Outstanding Scientist Award in 1982, the Outstanding Service Award in 1983, America's New Leadership Class Award in 1985, and U.S. Black Engineer of the Year in 1992; in 1995, he was inducted into the National Academy of Engineering; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Russell holds membership with various organizations, including the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc., which he serves as a Fellow, and Eta Kappa Nu; and

WHEREAS, a devoted husband and father, he enjoys the love and support of his wife, Amanda O. Russell, and their four children, Tina, Jesse, Jr., William, and Catalina; and

WHEREAS, Jesse Russell epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Jesse Eugene Russell, Sr., for his groundbreaking innovation in digital cellular technology and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.